GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1953
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015
Powers to Panchayats
Subbareddy Shri Yerram Venkata

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

a) the details of powers and responsibilities given to Panchayats as per Constitutional provisions in the country;

b) whether the Government is aware of any instances of curtailing/overlapping of these powers/responsibilities by way of constituting separate/parallel mechanism/committees by various States;

c) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto, State/UT-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and

d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure that these powers of Panchayats are not violated by the State Governments?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) Under Article 243G of Part IX of the Constitution, State legislatures are to endow the Panchayats with powers and authority to enable them to function as institutions of local self-governance. The Constitution allows discretion to the States in the matter of devolution of powers to Panchayats. States vary significantly in the extent to which they have devolved powers to the Panchayats. State-wise status of powers devolved to Panchayats is at Annex.

(b) & (c) Several Central and State departments have set up grassroots bodies/committees to carry out various functions related to a range of subjects. These bodies include District Health Mission, Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Committee (VHSNC), Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS), Panchayat/Block/Zilla Lok Siksha Samitis, School Management Committee (SMC), School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC), Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC), District Water & Sanitation Mission (DWSM) etc. In Andhra Pradesh too, committees such as School Management Committee, Gram Panchayat Health Committee, Water and Sanitation Committee, Janma Bhoomi and Mavooru Committee etc. have been constituted. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that there is an organic link between these committees and the Gram Panchayat. Other States Governments have given similar views.

(d) MoPR has advised States that such bodies should be embedded in the respective Panchayats. Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) conducts an annual Panchayat Devolution Index (PDI) study by a national level independent institution to assess the extent of devolution of powers by States to various tiers of PRIs and extent of exercise of these devolved powers by PRIs. States that perform well on the Devolution Index are honoured on the National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th April.

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